

04-21-00

Attorney's Docket No. 99-0925  
Client's Docket No. KCM239

A

**PATENT Utility APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

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Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the utility patent application  
of:

INVENTOR: CLAYTON R YOUNKER

FOR: POOL TABLE DECORATIVE LIGHT

**Enclosed are:**

- ☒ Postcard for receipt stamp and return.
- ☒ Applicant's Check for **\$345.00**, covering fees calculated below.
- ☒ Specification with Claims, Abstract, & Declaration & Power of Attorney
- ☒ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37C.F.R § 1.9 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.
- ☒ 2 sheets of drawing.
- ☐ Cover Sheet & Assignment to: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement.

**The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:**

	(Col. 1) No. Filed	(Col. 2) No. Extra		SMALL ENTITY RATE	ENTITY FEE
FOR:					
BASIC FEE				\$345	<b>\$345</b>
TOTAL CLAIMS	<b>10</b>	-20=	<b>0</b> x09		<b>0</b>
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	<b>2</b>	- 3=	<b>0</b> x39		<b>0</b>
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED				+125	
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$345</b>

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which are not otherwise submitted and which may be required under 37 CFR 1.17 during the entire pendency of this application, to the Deposit Account # **11-0020**.

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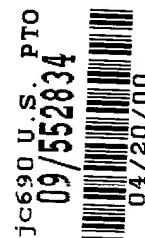
April 20, 2000  
Date

Attorney's Docket No. 99-0925  
Client's Docket No. KCM239

**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

In re Application of:  
CLAYTON R YOUNKER


Filed: **UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION**  
For: **POOL TABLE DECORATIVE LIGHT**



Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date of Deposit: April 20, 2000

I hereby certify that the attached U.S. Patent Application, informal drawings, transmittal letter, priority document, and/or Preliminary Amendment are being deposited with the United States Postal Service under Express Mail service **#EL 493062955 US** on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.



**April 20, 2000**  
Date

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Applicant or Patentee: **CLAYTON R. YOUNKER**  
Serial or Patent Number:  
Filed or Issued:  
For: **POOL TABLE DECORATIVE LIGHT**

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled as above and described in:

☒ the specification filed herewith.  
☐ application serial number \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ patent no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ no such person, concern, or organization  
☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below\*

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME: NOT APPLICABLE ☐ INDIVIDUAL  
ADDRESS: NOT APPLICABLE ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN  
☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR: **CLAYTON R. YOUNKER**

Clayton R. Younker  
Inventor's Signature

Date: 3-27-00

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 99-0925  
Client's Docket No. KCM239

**APPLICATION**

**FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

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**SPECIFICATION**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **CLAYTON R. YOUNKER**, a citizen  
of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful  
**POOL TABLE DECORATIVE LIGHT** of which the following is a  
specification:

## POOL TABLE DECORATIVE LIGHT

5

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to pool table lights and more particularly pertains to a new pool table decorative light for directing light toward a pool table and covering a light assembly.

15

#### Description of the Prior Art

20

The use of pool table lights is known in the prior art. More specifically, pool table lights heretofore devised and utilized are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

25

Known prior art includes U.S. Patent No. 3,783,544; U.S. Patent No. 4,029,313; U.S. Patent No. 3,760,179; U.S. Des. Patent No. 268,940; U.S. Des. Patent No. 152,390; and U.S. Des. Patent No. 374,293.

30

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the aforementioned patents do not

disclose a new pool table decorative light. The inventive device includes a light housing, the light housing has an open bottom side such that an interior and exterior of the light housing are defined. The light housing has a shape generally resembling a car. The light housing has a pair of openings therein such that each of the cables holding a light assembly may extend through one of the openings such that the light housing may be positioned between the light assembly and the ceiling. A plurality of accessories may be used for individually decorating an exterior surface of the light housing.

In these respects, the pool table decorative light according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of directing light toward a pool table and covering a light assembly.

## **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of pool table lights now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new pool table decorative light construction wherein the same can be utilized for directing light toward a pool table and covering a light assembly.

The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new pool table decorative light apparatus and method which has many of the advantages of the pool table lights mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new pool table decorative light which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art pool table lights, either alone or in any combination thereof.

To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a light housing, the light housing has an open bottom side such that an interior and exterior of the light housing are defined. The light housing has a shape generally resembling a car. The light housing has a pair of openings therein such that each of the cables holding a light assembly may extend through one of the openings such that the light housing may be positioned between the light assembly and the ceiling. A plurality of accessories may be used for individually decorating an exterior surface of the light housing.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods

and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

5

Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to  
10 determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence of the technical disclosure of the application. The abstract is neither intended to define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be limiting as to the scope of the invention in any way.

15

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new pool table decorative light apparatus and method which has many of the advantages of the pool table lights mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new pool table  
20 decorative light which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art pool table lights, either alone or in any combination thereof.

25

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new pool table decorative light which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

30

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new pool table decorative light which is of a durable and reliable construction.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new pool table decorative light which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the  
5 consuming public, thereby making such pool table decorative light economically available to the buying public.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new pool table decorative light which provides in the apparatuses  
10 and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while simultaneously overcoming some of the disadvantages normally associated therewith.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a  
15 new pool table decorative light for directing light toward a pool table and covering a light assembly.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new pool table decorative light which includes a light housing, the  
20 light housing has an open bottom side such that an interior and exterior of the light housing are defined. The light housing has a shape generally resembling a car. The light housing has a pair of openings therein such that each of the cables holding a light assembly may extend through one of the openings such that the  
25 light housing may be positioned between the light assembly and the ceiling. A plurality of accessories may be used for individually decorating an exterior surface of the light housing.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide  
30 a new pool table decorative light that may be customized for the surroundings in which it is to be located.

Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a new pool table decorative light that may be painted such that light does not escape through the light housing.

5        These together with other objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained  
10 by its uses, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated preferred embodiments of the invention.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

15        The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

20        Figure 1 is a schematic side view of a new pool table decorative light according to the present invention.

25        Figure 2 is a schematic perspective view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic front view of the present invention.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

30        With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 3 thereof, a new pool table decorative light

embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 3, the pool table  
5 decorative light 10 generally comprises a light housing 12. The  
light housing 12 has an open bottom side 14 such that an interior  
and exterior of the light housing are defined. The light housing 12  
has a shape generally resembling a race car such that a hood portion  
16, roof portion 17, trunk portion 18, four wheels 19 and two sides  
10 walls 20 are defined. The light housing 12 is substantially  
transparent. The light housing 12 preferably comprises a material  
selected from the group consisting of plastic and fiberglass. The  
race car shape is generally that of race cars found in NASCAR or  
Indy car racing, though any type of car may be used. Thus, sports  
15 cars, or other classic cars may also be replicated.

A light assembly 22 is elongate. The light assembly 22 has a  
top wall 24 and a pair of ends 26. The light assembly 22 is adapted  
to illuminate at least one elongated fluorescent light bulb 28. A  
20 pair of cables 30 hangs the light assembly 22 from the ceiling.  
Each of the cables 30 is coupled the top wall 24 and each is  
positioned generally adjacent to an opposite end 26 of the top wall  
24. The light assembly 22 is operatively coupled to a power  
source. The light housing 22 has a first opening, not shown, in the  
25 hood portion 16 and a second opening, not shown, in the trunk  
portion 18 such that each of the openings may receive one of the  
cables 30. The light assembly 22 may be any conventional hanging  
light fixture which is elongate to support the light housing 12 as  
the light housing 12 is placed between the ceiling and the light  
30 assembly 22.

A pair of spacing members 32, 34 place a portion of space between the interior surface of the light housing 12 and the light assembly 22. Each of the spacing members 32, 34 is positioned between the light assembly 22 and an interior surface of the light housing 12. A first 32 of the spacing members is between the top wall 24 of the light assembly 22 and the hood portion 16 of the light housing 12. A second 34 of the spacing members is positioned between the top wall 24 of the light assembly 22 and the trunk portion 18. Each of the spacing members 32, 34 comprises a block, which is comprised of a foamed plastic material, such as polystyrene. The blocks each have a size adapted to keep the light housing relatively level with the pool table 70.

A plurality of accessories may be used to individually decorate an exterior surface of the light housing. The plurality of accessories includes a plurality of paints 36. Each of the paints 36 has a different color. A portion of the paints 36 comprises spray paints. A plurality of paint brushes 38 may be used to add additional paint by hand.

A plurality of decals 40 may be placed on the light housing. Each of the decals 40 has a different indicia thereon. Each of the decals 40 is securable to an exterior surface of the light housing 12. The decals 40 may include numbers, advertising, tire decals for the tires or names of famous car drivers.

A gluing means 42 may be used for gluing items to the light housing. The gluing means comprises a conventional glue. The items may include names, numbers or advertising which is not represented by a decal.

A container holds the accessories. The container has a base wall 44 having a top surface and a bottom surface. The top surface has a plurality of vertical walls 48 thereon such that a plurality of discrete sections are defined. Each of the discrete sections is adapted for holding a portion of the accessories. The container has a shape adapted for being removably insertable in the interior of the light housing 12 as shown in Figure 2.

In use, the user first paints the light housing 12 the color or colors desired. The decals 40 are then placed on the light housing as seen fit by the user. Once the light housing 12 is finished, it may be hung over the light assembly 22 which would then be coupled to the ceiling. Such lights are often found over pool tables.

As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous

modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the  
5 scope of the invention.

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A pool table decorative light kit, said kit being mountable over a light assembly a light assembly, said light assembly being elongate, said light assembly having a top wall and a pair of ends, said light assembly being adapted to illuminate a pair of elongated fluorescent light bulbs, said light assembly being hung from said ceiling by a pair of cables, each of said cables being coupled generally adjacent to an opposite end of said top wall, said light assembly being operatively coupled to a power source, said assembly comprising:

a light housing, said light housing having an open bottom side such that an interior and exterior of said light housing are defined, said light housing having a shape generally resembling a car;

wherein said light housing has a pair of openings therein such that each of said cables may extend through one of said openings such that said light housing may be positioned between the light assembly and the ceiling;

a plurality of accessories for individually decorating an exterior surface of said light housing.

2. The pool table decorative light assembly as in claim 1, wherein said light housing further comprises:

said light housing resembling a race car, said light housing being substantially transparent, said light housing comprising a plastic.

3. The pool table decorative light assembly as in claim 2, further comprising:

a pair of spacing members for placing a space between the light assembly and said interior of said light housing, each of said spacing members being positioned between said light assembly and an interior surface of said light housing, a first of said spacing members being between said top wall of said light assembly and a hood portion of said light housing, a second of said spacing members being positioned between said top wall of said light assembly and a trunk portion.

4. The pool table decorative light assembly as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of accessories comprises:

a plurality of paints, each of said paints having a different color, a portion of said paints comprising spray paints.

5. The pool table decorative light assembly as in claim 4, wherein said plurality of accessories further comprises:

a plurality of paint brushes.

6. The pool table decorative light assembly as in claim 4, wherein said plurality of accessories further comprises:  
a plurality of decals, each of said decals having a different indicia thereon, each of said decals being securable to an exterior surface of said light housing.

7. The pool table decorative light assembly as in claim 5, wherein said plurality of accessories further comprises:  
a gluing means for gluing items to said light housing, said gluing means comprising a glue.

8. The pool table decorative light assembly as in claim 1, further comprising:  
a container for holding said accessories, said container having a base wall having a top surface and a bottom surface, said top surface having a plurality of walls thereon such that a plurality of discrete sections are defined, each of said discrete sections being adapted for holding a portion of said accessories, said container having a

shape adapted for being removably insertable in said interior of said light housing.

9. The pool table decorative light assembly as in claim 6, further comprising:

a container for holding said accessories, said container having a base wall having a top surface and a bottom surface, said top surface having a plurality of walls thereon such that a plurality of discrete sections are defined, each of said discrete sections being adapted for holding a portion of said accessories, said container having a shape adapted for being removably insertable in said interior of said light housing.

10. A pool table decorative light assembly, said light assembly being removably hung from a ceiling, said assembly comprising:

a light housing, said light housing having an open bottom side such that an interior and exterior of said light housing are defined, said light housing having a shape generally resembling a race car such that a hood portion, roof portion, trunk portion and two sides walls are defined, said light housing being substantially transparent, said

light housing comprising a material selected from the group consisting of a plastic and a fiberglass;

a light assembly, said light assembly being elongate, said light assembly having a top wall and a pair of ends, said light assembly being adapted to illuminate a pair of elongated fluorescent light bulbs, said light assembly being hung from said ceiling by a pair of cables, each of said cables being coupled generally adjacent to an opposite end of said top wall, said light assembly being operatively coupled to a power source, wherein said light housing has a first opening in said hood portion and a second opening in said trunk portion such that each of said openings may receive one of said cables;

a pair of spacing members, each of said spacing members being positioned between said light assembly and an interior surface of said light housing, a first of said spacing members being between said top wall of said light assembly and said hood portion of said light housing, a second of said spacing members being positioned between said top wall of said light assembly and said trunk portion, each of said spacing members comprising a block, each of said blocks comprising a foamed plastic material;

a plurality of accessories for individually decorating an exterior surface of said light housing, said plurality of accessories comprising:

a plurality of paints, each of said paints having a different color, a portion of said paints comprising spray paints;

a plurality of paint brushes;

a plurality of decals, each of said decals having a  
different indicia thereon, each of said decals being  
securable to an exterior surface of said light  
housing;

a gluing means for gluing items to said light housing,  
said gluing means comprising a glue; and

a container for holding said accessories, said container having  
a base wall having a top surface and a bottom surface,  
said top surface having a plurality of walls thereon such  
that a plurality of discrete sections are defined, each of  
said discrete sections being adapted for holding a  
portion of said accessories, said container having a  
shape adapted for being removably insertable in said  
interior of said light housing.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

- 5           A pool table decorative light for directing light toward a pool  
table and covering a light assembly. The pool table decorative  
light includes a light housing, the light housing has an open bottom  
side such that an interior and exterior of the light housing are  
defined. The light housing has a shape generally resembling a car.  
10   The light housing has a pair of openings therein such that each of  
the cables holding a light assembly may extend through one of the  
openings such that the light housing may be positioned between the  
light assembly and the ceiling. A plurality of accessories may be  
used for individually decorating an exterior surface of the light  
15   housing.

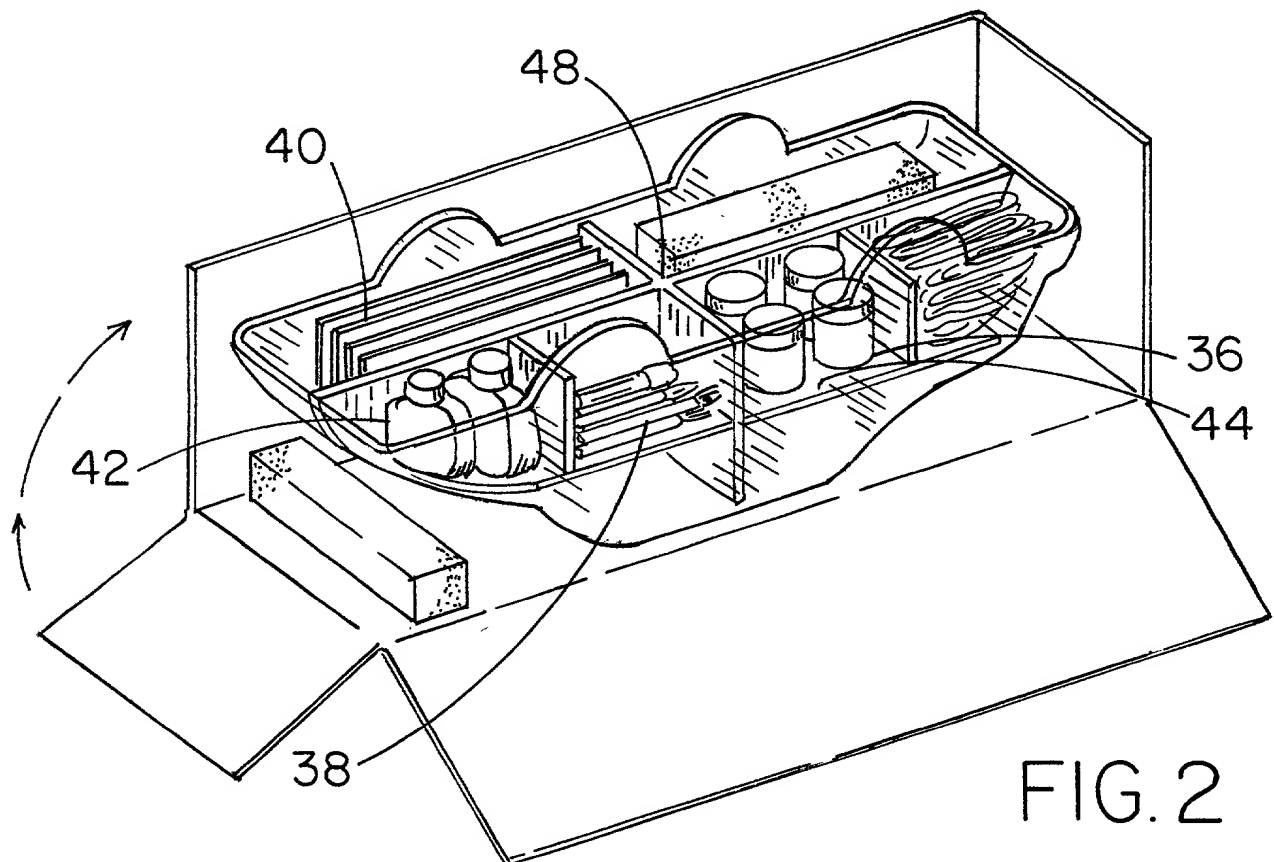
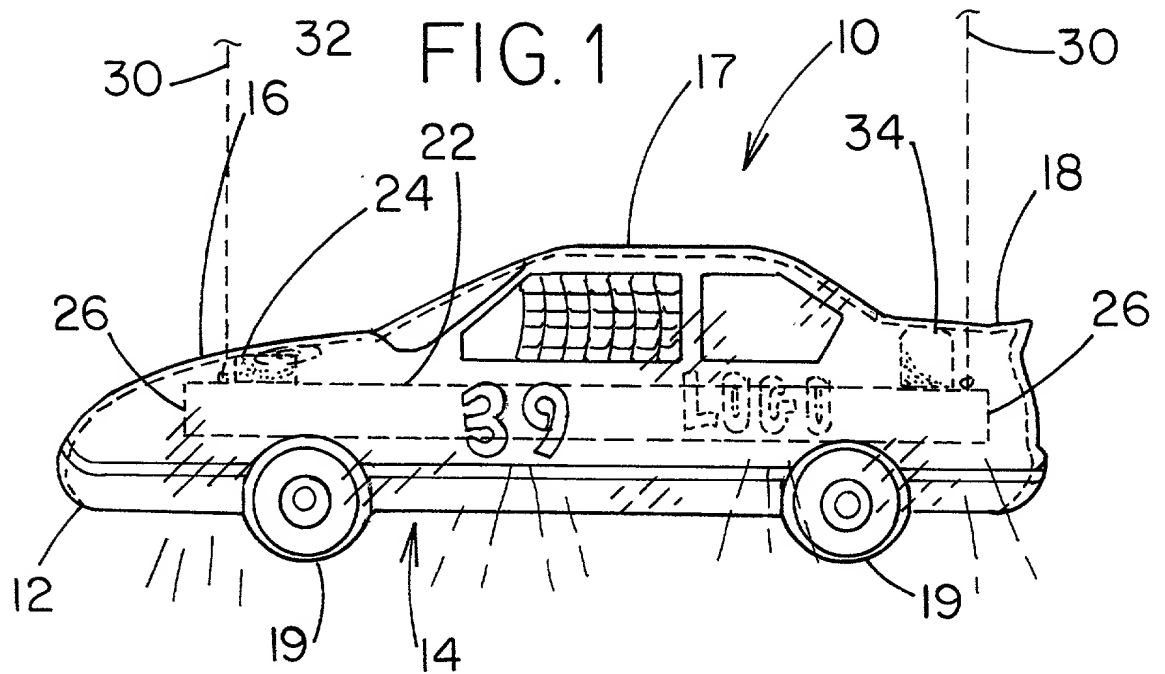
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FIG. 3

## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

### POOL TABLE DECORATIVE LIGHT

the specification of which is attached hereto.

I further state that I do not know and do not believe that the above-named invention has ever been known or used in the United States before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof, or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to this application; that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of any inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States on any application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than one (1) year prior to this application; and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on the invention has been filed by me or my representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as identified below.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment if applicable.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

<u>NONE</u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/ Year Filed)	(Yes)	(No)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States Provisional application(s) listed below:

<u>NONE</u>	<u>                    </u>
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365 (c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>NONE</u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Ivar M. Kaardal, Registration Number 29,812.

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Full Name of Inventor: **CLAYTON R. YOUNKER**

Clayton R. Younker Date: 3-27-00  
Inventor's Signature

Residence: **NOEL, MISSOURI**

Citizenship: **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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